

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

The concept of childhood appears to evolve and change shape as lifestyles change and adult expectations alter. Some believe that children should not have any worries and should not have to work; life should be happy and trouble-free. Childhood is usually a mixture of happiness, wonder, angst and resilience. It is generally a time of playing, learning, socializing, exploring, and worrying in a world without much adult interference, aside from parents. It is a time of learning about responsibilities without having to deal with adult responsibilities.

The term *childhood* is non-specific and can imply a varying range of years in human development. Developmentally and biologically, it refers to the period between infancy and adulthood. In common terms, childhood is considered to start from birth. Some consider that childhood, as a concept of play and innocence, ends at adolescence. In the legal systems of many countries, there is an age of majority when childhood officially ends and a person legally becomes an adult. The age ranges anywhere from 15 to 21, with 18 being the most common.

Literary work has a close relationship with human life. One of literary works is novel. According to Sara Constantakis (2010: 5), a novel is made up of many parts interacting to create a coherent whole. In reading

a novel, the obvious features can be easily spotted by the theme, characters, plot, and any others of structural elements that greatly influence how the novel is perceived by the reader. Literature shows the feelings and opinion to the public. Literature is also one of main avenue and quantity of material that gives information about human life in all time period, region, classes and races.

*And The Mountain Echoed* is novel by by Afghan-American author Khaled Hosseini. Published in 2013 by Riverhead Books, it deviates from Hosseini's style in his first two works through his choice to avoid focusing on any one character. Rather, the book is written similarly to a collection of short stories, with each of the nine chapters being told from the perspective of a different character.

Hosseini was born in Kabul, Afghanistan. His father worked as a diplomat, and when Hosseini was 11 years old, the family moved to France; four years later, they applied for asylum in the United States. He attended school in America with little knowledge of the English language at the time and later became a citizen. Hosseini did not return to Afghanistan until 2003 at the age of 38, where he "felt like a tourist in [his] own country". All three of his novels became bestsellers, with *The Kite Runner* spending 101 weeks on the bestseller list (number one for four of those weeks) as a paperback. In 2007, *The Kite Runner* was followed by *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, which has spent 21 weeks on *The New York Times* Best Seller list for paperback fiction and 49 weeks on *The*

*New York Times* Best Seller list for hardcover fiction (number one for 15 of those weeks). The two novels have sold more than 38 million copies internationally. Hosseini's third novel *And The Mountains Echoed* was released on May 21, 2013.

The novel's two central characters, they are children living in a remote, impoverished Afghan village. Abdullah is 10, and his beloved baby sister, Pari, is 3. He has taken care of her since their mother died giving birth to her. The family has no money, and one of their stepmother's babies has already died from the cold.

One day, their father take them to the long trip to Kabul to meet their uncle Nabi who worked in the wealthy family Sulaiman and Nila Wahdati. Pari is left with them to grow up with all the privileges of wealth; her father has allowed the Wahdatis to adopt her. In the decades to come, Pari will grow up in Paris with Nila, a sometime poet and full-time narcissist who leaves her husband behind in Kabul to lead a self-indulgent, bohemian life impossible in Afghanistan. Pari becomes a mathematician, marries a drama teacher and has three children. She suspects that she might have been adopted and resolves to one day travel back to Afghanistan to find out the truth about her past.

As for Abdullah, he ends up in California, running a restaurant called Abe's Kabob House. He and his wife have named their only child Pari, after his long-lost sister, and the younger Pari will dream of reuniting her father with his missing sibling. After her mother dies, and her father

begins to suffer from dementia, Pari decides to postpone her dreams of going to art school to take care of Abdullah.

Creating a kind of echo chamber, Mr. Hosseini gives us an assortment of other tales that mirror the stories of Abdullah and the older Pari. There's the story of their stepmother, Parwana, and her beautiful sister Masooma, who was originally supposed to become Saboor's betrothed; the story of Parwana's brother, Nabi, who becomes a caretaker and kind of brother to Suleiman, his ailing employer; the story of the brash, fast-talking Timur Bashiri, whose family used to live down the street from the Wahdatis, and his introspective cousin Idris, who both now live in California; and the story of a Greek doctor named Markos who has moved to Kabul (in fact, into the Wahdatis' former house) to operate on children who have been injured in the war, and his childhood soul mate, Thalia, who now cares for Markos's aging mother back home in Greece.

Three million copies of *And The Mountains Echoed* were sold within five months of its publication. First printed in hardback, *And The Mountains Echoed* was priced at \$28.95 in the United States and £14.99 in the United Kingdom. Hosseini went on a five-week tour to 41 cities across America to promote the book. In October 2013, plans were confirmed to translate *And The Mountains Echoed* into 40 languages, among them Icelandic and Malaysian.

There are many responses toward *And The Mountains Echoed* novel. One of responses comes from G. Willow Wilson in *SFGate* (May

29, 2013), he stated, "However, fans of "The Kite Runner" and "A Thousand Splendid Suns" will not be disappointed: There is an assured, charismatic new maturity to Hosseini's voice. When he hits his stride, the results are electrifying." Another responses come from Lisa McLendon in *The Wichita Eagle* (June 2, 2013), she said "The stories of "And the Mountains Echoed" don't give us several views of a whole picture – they aren't intended to – but rather explore the connections people have to places and to each other and how early experiences shape a life for years to come. And they do this very well: Hosseini is a talented storyteller, wrapping readers in emotion, using detail to create full images of people and locations and creating complex, human characters who inhabit complex, human lives."

Marcela Valdes from *Washington Post* (May 21, 2013), argues that "It's hard to do justice to a novel this rich in a short review. There are a dozen things I still want to say — about the rhyming pairs of characters, the echoing situations, the varied takes on honesty, loneliness, beauty and poverty, the transformation of emotions into physical ailments. Instead, I'll just add this: Send Hosseini up the bestseller list again."

Besides possitive responses, there are some negative responses. Sue Grant-Marshal in *Bussines day* (August 6, 2013) said that "If I had known in advance that we would be shipped off into so many tributaries of the main flow of the book, I might have been less irritated by the side trips."

*USA Today* critic Kevin Nance found the story of Abdullah and Pari "devastating" but thought the large cast of characters, "including some introduced fairly late in the proceedings, when the reader just wants to return to the core cast", was excessive.

There are four reasons why the researcher is interested in studying this novel. The first is *And The Mountains Echoed* has an interesting story. The story tells about the girl named Pari. Her father sold her to rich family when she was child to save another member family from the hard winter. That makes her separated from her brother Abdullah.

The second reason is the researcher is interested in studying novel. Novel is one of literary review that tells story, characteristics, sequence of events of human life. Novel also gives emotional feeling to the reader.

The third reason is because this novel is one of the Khaled Hosseini's best novels. He is a talented writer, he has written three novels and all three of his novels became bestsellers. This novel also can make the readers cry because this drama really touches the heart and feelings.

The last reason is about moral conflicts in this novel. Not a few moral messages conveyed in this story. The message that is conveyed is not only about the deep affection, but also about the struggle and sacrifice to face a hard life that makes a father sell his daughter to a rich family in order to save his family and how the childhood gives contribution to his daughter's life. It teaches the readers, how to learn to understand the will of a child.

From the explanation above, the researcher was really interested in analyzing the contribution of childhood to the personality development in *And The Mountains Echoed* novel. The study will be analyzed by using developmental psychological theory. So, the researcher entitled this research **CONTRIBUTION OF CHILDHOOD TO THE PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT IN KHALED HOSSEINI'S AND THE MOUNTAINS ECHOED (2013) : A DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

## **B. Literature Review**

As long as the researcher knows *And The Mountains Echoed* novel by Khaled Hosseini has not been analyzed in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, UNS and also UGM.

## **C. Problem Statement**

Based on the background of the research, the researcher proposed a single problem statement. The problem of the research is “How is the contribution of childhood to the personality development?”

## **D. Limitation of the Study**

In this research, the researcher focused on analyzing the childhood contribution to the personality development by using a developmental psychological approach.

### **E. Objective of the Study**

There are two objectives of the study in the research, they are:

1. To analyze the second elements of the novel.
2. To analyze the contribution of childhood to the personality development in Khaled Hosseini's *And The Mountains Echoed* novel based on the developmental psychological approach.

### **F. Benefits of the Study**

The result of this research is expected to give some benefits as follows:

#### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

This study will be beneficial for contributing to the large body of knowledge, particularly literary study on *And The Mountains Echoed* novel by Khaled Hosseini. Particularity Developmental Psychological study on literature about the contribution of childhood to the personality development

#### **2. Practical Benefit**

It gives deeper understanding in literary field as references to other researchers in analyzing novel especially based on Developmental psychological Approach.



## **G. Research Method**

The methods of the research are as follows:

### **1. Type of the Study**

The type of this research is descriptive qualitative. Descriptive qualitative is a type of research which results in the descriptive data in the form of written or oral words from the observed object.

### **2. Type of the Data and the Data Source**

#### **a. Type of the data**

The type of the data is in form of the text that is taken from the words, phrases, sentences, narration and dialogues in the novel.

#### **b. Data Source**

There are two types of data source namely primary data and secondary data that are needed to do this research.

##### **1) Primary Data**

The primary data source of this study is *And The Mountains Echoed* (2013) novel written by Khaled Hosaini. The data involves dialogues, characters, action, and the whole narration, which are relevant to the subject matter of this research.

##### **2) Secondary Data Source**

Secondary data is the supporting data taken from other sources such as essay, articles, biography of Khaled Hosaini, Internet and other relevant information.

## **H. Research Paper Organization**

The research paper organization is divided into five chapter:

Chapter I is introduction consisting of background of the study, previous study, limitation of the study, problem statements, objective of the study, benefit of the study, theoritical approach, research method, and paper organization. Chapter II is the underlying theory that contains the notion of Developmental Psychological theory and structural elements of the novel, which is closely related to the topic discussed. Chapter III covers the structural elements of the novel that includes characters and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, style and theme. Chapter IV is Developmental Psychology toward the novel. Chapter V consists of conclusion and suggestion of the study.